

Storm Warning Test: The NWS Cheyenne office will test a new storm warning procedure this winter that could result in a public rating scale designed to better describe the potential impact of winter storms.

The new rating system should let forecasters provide a winter watch and warning service more useful to those affected. The winter storm rating index was created by forecasters in Cheyenne. The new index rates winter storms in five categories: one, a minor inconvenience; two, inconvenience; three, significant inconvenience; four, potentially life-threatening; and five, life-threatening.

News Briefs

Cheyenne forecasters devised the new index after an October 1997 storm dumped heavy snow on parts of two states for 15 hours in gale-force winds.

Dust Bowl Redux?: Droughts more severe than the 1930s Dust Bowl could occur in the Great Plains sometime in the next century, say NOAA scientists Connie Woodhouse, of the National Geophysical Data Center in Boulder, Colo., and Jonathan Overpeck, head of NOAA's Paleoclimatology Program, in the December issue of the *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*.

The authors found a greater range of drought variability in the past than found in the instrumental record. Droughts of the 20th Century have been only moderately severe and relatively short, compared with droughts of much longer ago. Woodhouse said that paleoclimatic records of the past 400 years strongly indicate that the severe droughts of the 20th century, the 1930s Dust Bowl and the 1950s drought, were not unusual events and suggest that we can expect to have droughts of this magnitude once or twice a century. ☹

Sanctuary Honored as Conservation Accomplishment of the Century

The Audubon Society, one of the country's top environmental organizations, has named NOAA's Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary as one of 10 of the "top gems" in the Nation's "crown jewels of its natural heritage," alongside such national treasures as Grand Canyon National Park, the

Alaska Lands Act, Nebraska's Tallgrass Prairie Preserve, California's Mono Lake, and the Florida Everglades.

The Society put the sanctuary in such distinguished company in the article "The Century of Conservation," in the December 1998 issue of *Audubon* magazine.

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Will Stelle, NMFS Northwest regional administrator (left), gets out the bucket and soap to wash the Bronco of the lucky winner, Randy Cross (in car). Campaign coordinator Cmdr. Michael Mallette, chief of the NMFS fisheries permit office (center), helped to raise more than \$20,000 for the Combined Federal Campaign.

Coming Clean for the CFC

NOA's Northwest Fisheries center in Seattle showed a unique way to raise awareness for the Combined Federal Campaign—a raffle for a car wash by NMFS Regional Administrator, Will Stelle.

Randy Cross, a NMFS management and program analyst, was the lucky winner. The raffle, which included other prizes, raised more than \$20,800 for the combined charities, a 42 percent increase over last year. ☹

900 Acres of New Wetland Habitat Created in Louisiana Delta Joint Project

Deep in Louisiana's Atchafalaya River delta, 900 acres of new wetland habitat have successfully been created as a result of NOAA's restoration efforts, and an additional 3,000 acres of wetland habitat are expected to be created through natural processes over the next 20 years.

Located 18 miles southwest of Morgan City, La., the 900-acre wetland reconstruction, a joint project of NOAA Fisheries and the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, was accomplished through two large dredging projects: the Big Island Project and the Atchafalaya Sediment Delivery Project.

Louisiana's wetland loss is estimated at a rate of 25 square miles per year, or 800,000 acres within 50 years. Such losses affect the ecological, economic, cultural, aesthetic, and



ERIK ZOBRIST

Among those at the Atchafalaya delta project dedication were (left to right) U.S. Sen. John Breaux (D-LA); airboat operator Henry Adams, River Road Construction; Sec. Jack Caldwell, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources; NOAA Fisheries Director Rollie Schmitten; Project Design Engineer Ike Mayer of Brown, Cunningham and Gannuch; and Len Bahr of the Louisiana Governor's Office.

recreational needs of the state and the Nation. Much of the Nation's oil and natural gas are supported by

Louisiana's wetlands, and its vital nurseries for commercial fisheries and habitat for many species of plants and wildlife are rich resources.

Sanctuary Named National 'Top Gem'

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When the Audubon Society was formed in 1886, the notion of public conservation was still in its infancy. The Society, the Nation's first bird preservation group, was organized in response to the wholesale slaughter of birds for decoration or food. From this early movement, a system of national parks was created, but a larger movement to protect our natural resources didn't completely take hold. By the 1940s, Aldo Leopold's "land ethic" raised an urgent call for stewardship of our natural resources, re-igniting the conservation of public lands. The environmental movement of the late 1960s and early 1970s followed,

leading to the passage of new laws to protect our air, water, and the ocean.

"Everyone within NOAA and our state partners can take pride in this recognition," says NOAA Administrator D. James Baker. "The staff at each of the 12 marine sanctuaries employs the full range of NOAA's expertise and services to best protect these premier marine environments. Thanks to the success of the 1998 Year of the Ocean, Americans are increasingly seeing the benefits of extending our legacy of public conservation to the ocean, as embodied by NOAA's 12 national marine sanctuaries."

—Justin Kenney ☺

The Big Island and Atchafalaya sediment delivery projects were developed by NOAA and the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources to enhance sediment delivery throughout the delta, create new distributary channels, and reopen some existing distributary channels.

These two projects are helping to restore freshwater and sediment delivery to the delta. Careful placement of dredged sediment created 900 acres of delta wetlands and reestablished the natural processes.

Already, alligators and numerous species of birds—including ducks, roseate spoonbills, black terns and American egrets—are using the new delta wetlands. Several species of fish are seen in waters adjacent to the new islands.

—Brenda Rupli ☺

In L.A. Speech, Baker Links Safety, Extreme Weather and Climate Change

In an October address to the 86th annual congress of the National Safety Council in Los Angeles, NOAA Administrator D. James Baker stressed the connection between climate change and public safety, and how the work of NOAA scientists can help communities prepare for such potentially cataclysmic weather disasters as flooding, droughts, hurricanes, and tornadoes.

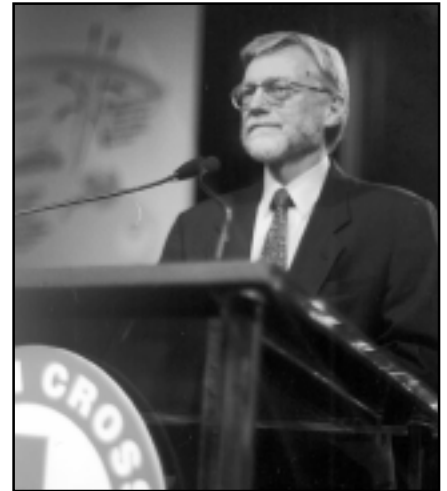
"Seasonal climate changes such as El Niño or La Niña can pose real threats to life and safety," said Baker. "As our scientific understanding and prediction capabilities improve, we will be better able to plan for and mitigate their impacts."

"For the first time ever, NOAA scientists were able to predict well in advance that an El Niño event would occur. With this advance information, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Agency for International Development were able to help communities take practical steps to prepare for associated severe weather events."

"This El Niño event had major impacts on society worldwide, affecting everything from agriculture and fisheries, to water resource management, and human health and safety," added Baker. "It was a clear reminder of how vulnerable society is to climate extremes."

During 1998, the total cost of extreme events in the United States was close to \$6 billion, Baker said.

As regional temperatures and precipitation amounts change, the Nation has experienced "a noticeable increase in extreme one-day precipitation events...over the last century," he added. "This pattern is consistent with what we would expect to see with global greenhouse warming." ☺



NOAA Administrator D. James Baker in a speech to the 86th annual congress of the National Safety Council in Los Angeles.



Making Waves on the Charles

Olwen Huxley (right), a program analyst for the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research in Silver Spring, Md., shared top honors Oct. 17 as women's doubles champion in the Head of the Charles Regatta with Potomac Boat Club teammate Karin Hughes of Annapolis, Md. The annual regatta pits single and teams of rowers in tradi-

tional racing shells in a 3-mile race on Boston's Charles River. This year's regatta drew more than 5,400 rowers from around the world for nineteen different events. Huxley's boat beat the runners up, the U.S. National Team, by nearly 25 seconds in the unrestricted women's field to take the regatta's overall women's doubles championship. ☺

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Focus On...

Gold, Silver, Bronze & NOAA Administrator Awards

Every year, the Commerce Department and NOAA honor employees who have performed exemplary work with Gold, Silver, and Bronze Medals, and the NOAA Administrator's Award. A list of those staffers, and their achievements, follows.

GOLD MEDAL AWARDS

National Weather Service

Ants Leetmaa, Gerald D. Bell, Ming Ji, Vernon E. Kousky, Arun Kumar, Robert E. Livezey, Edward A. O'Lenic, Richard J. Tinker: For issuing the first highly skilled, physically based climate forecasts for U.S. temperatures and rainfall based on El Niño for Winter 1997-98.

James S. Doherty, Phillip N. Weigant: For design, development, and deployment of the Emergency Managers Weather Information Network.

Walter Telesetsky, Douglas F. Hess, David B. Caldwell, Andris Karlsons, Gary Rice, Peter C. Lyden: For leadership excellence resulting in the successful deployment of 164 NEXRAD Doppler Weather Surveillance systems.

NWS Office, Melbourne, Fla.: For providing early and precise severe weather warnings that saved many lives during the most devastating tornado outbreak in the history of Florida.

NESDIS

Thomas Karl, Sydney Levitus, Jonathan T. Overpeck: For professional excellence and world class scientific contributions which have advanced the understanding of the climate system and variability.

Thomas M. Wrublewski, Gustave J. Comeyne, Ronald J. Hooker, Gregory P. Johnson, Kathleen A. Kelly, Steven P. Pirkner, Cyril A. Settles, Howard J. Singer, Michael A. Suranno, Timothy J. Walsh: For management excellence resulting in the uncontested award of a potentially \$900 million contract for the

new GOES-N/O/P/Q spacecraft in only 156 days.

Nickalaus Thomas Pinkine, Andrew Dress, Michael Weinreb, Diane V. Robinson, Cheryl A. King, Richard G. Reynolds: For engineering performance in the recovery of the GOES-10 spacecraft in full capacity following its solar array failure.

National Marine Fisheries Service

Gregory K. Silber, Lindy S. Johnson: For conservation of the Northern Right Whale through the development of a mandatory commercial vessel reporting and monitoring system in U.S. waters.

Dali G. Borden, Albert M. Samuels, Andrew R. Cohen, Richard A. Severtson: For investigative excellence in the protection of the American public and stewardship of our Nation's living marine resources.

SILVER MEDAL AWARDS

National Weather Service

Kevin J. Schrab: For sustained record of accomplishments in improving forecasts through the use of satellite imagery.

Robert W. Collins: For an innovative approach to significantly increasing public severe weather awareness.

NWS Forecast Office, Portland, Me.;
NWS Office, Burlington, Vt.: For exceptional public service and dedication to duty during the Winter Ice Storm of 1998.

NWS Forecast Office, Jackson, Ky.: For exceptional leadership through team excellence in furthering DOC and

NOAA diversity goals.

NESDIS

Linda V. Moodie: For creativity and leadership in achieving a negotiation breakthrough in securing U.S. Government real-time access to Indian satellite data.

National Marine Fisheries Service

John E. O'Reilly: For creativity and innovation in the use of satellite oceanography for studying ocean productivity.

John F. Witzig: For developing and managing a complex multistage scientific review of red snapper science and management in the Gulf of Mexico.

National Ocean Service

Carol-Ann Manen, Erik Zobrist, John Iliff, James Jeansonne, Robert E. Ransom, Joseph D'Felio, Jerry A. Britton, Cheryl Scannel, James Harold Hudson: For professional excellence in developing and implementing the Mona Island Coral Reef Restoration project.

OAR/Office of NOAA Corps Operations Meteorological Applications and Assessment Division, Aircraft Operations Center: For the extraordinary response to NOAA's call to study and forecast the unusual weather associated with this past winter's severe El Niño.

Office of Finance and Administration

Rudolph J. Dominic: For outstanding leadership in the improvement of financial management in NOAA.

BRONZE MEDAL AWARDS

Office of the General Counsel

Karen K. Davidson, Phillip J. Clapham, Karl D. Gleaves, Doris M. Kohler, Patricia E. Kraniotis, Alma J. Lyons, Craig N. McLean, Patricia A. Montanio, P. Michael Payne, Patricia A.

Simms, Patricia Thorne: For outstanding team effort to obtain domestic and international approval of a mandatory ship reporting system for the protection of highly endangered North Atlantic Right Whale.

Sharon K. Shutler, Brian E. Julius, George P. Schmahl: For negotiation of a settlement for restoration of 8,300 square meters of coral reef and a Florida Keys warning system to prevent large vessel groundings.

Thanh M. Trinh, Dona R. Cocking, Anthony L. Mercadante: For creating and implementing an outstanding environmental remediation and public health program which is used as a blueprint for NOAA's National Environmental Compliance Program.

Office of Finance and Administration

Teri L. Knox, Janette M. Labbee, Donna L. Rimmer, Vanessa M. Rucker-Barner, Patricia Devine Stone, Judith M. Swezy: For extraordinary contributions toward the success of the Department's bankcard program.

Rick Rehrl, Rose Lynam: For creating the NOAA Personal Property Home Page, a centralized virtual site accessible to OFA customers and providing a tool for CFO compliance and reporting.

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research
Britt Bassett, Carol Bateman, David Clark, Richard Fritz, Kent Groninger, Phyllis Gunn, James Holitza, Klaus Liedtke, Robert J. Mahler, Donald Mock, Larry Mooney, James Peterson, Rex Powell, David Speich, Bobby L. Trotter, Charles Van Valin, Dennis Wellman, John Welsh, Thomas Van Zandt: In recognition of the men and women who served on the Boulder Building Committee for their scientific and engineering achievements which culminated in a state-of-the-art facility where world-class environmental research will be conducted.

John A. Calder: For innovative and energetic leadership and skilled management of the 1997-1998 El Niño Response Program.

Edward J. Dlugokency: For outstanding research in detecting a decline in the global growth rate of methane, signify-

ing a limit on this greenhouse gas which affects climate and the ozone layer.

Helen C. Horton: For outstanding contributions to the Environmental Research Laboratories in support of the mission of the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research.

Kenneth W. Howard: For leadership and extraordinary effort leading to the "Powers of Nature" traveling museum exhibition.

Kenneth P. Moran: For unique engineering skills that provided the Nation with the MilliMeter Cloud Radar which advanced state-of-the-art cloud modeling worldwide.

Thomas Francis Nalepa: For outstanding leadership and unique scientific contributions to the aquatic nuisance (non-indigenous) species research program.

Thomas W. Schlatter, Stanley G. Benjamin, John M. Brown, Geoffrey J. DiMego, Lauren L. Morone, Barry E. Schwartz: For the development of the Rapid Update Cycle version 2, an hourly analysis and prediction system, and its implementation into operations at NCEP.

Taneil Uttal: For outstanding leadership in bringing together an unprecedented concentration of multi-agency instruments and scientists for the SHEBA experiment.

Office of NOAA Corps Operations

John C. Albright: For demonstrating outstanding leadership and achievement in the management of NOAA's ship operations.

Alan D. Anderson: For leadership in commanding the NOAA Hydrographic Surveying Ship *Rainier*.

Melvin A. Asato, Robert C. Wilmot: For leadership and management skills in consolidating the NOAA Fleet Pacific and Atlantic Marine Centers' Electronics and Marine Engineering Divisions.

Carol A. Baldwin, Dale F. Burgin, Diane H. Cantrell, Gloria D. Thompson: For planning and executing the commissioning ceremony of the NOAA Ship *Gordon Gunter*.

Jo Anne Bowman, Joan R. Langhans: For personal and professional excellence

in support of the Atlantic and Pacific Marine Centers.

NOAA Aircraft Operations Center: For achieving continuous and multiple flight operations through Hurricane Georges and providing critical data which saved lives and greatly reduced property damage in the U. S. Coastal areas.

National Marine Fisheries Service

Gregory James Bryant, Lance Kruzic, James M. Lynch, Stephen H. Smith: For outstanding leadership, teamwork, and management in securing protective harvest and hatchery measures for conservation of steelhead in Oregon and California.

Hilda Diaz-Soltero, Laurel Bryant, Wanda L. Cain, Elizabeth F. Edwards, Judson J. Feder, Peter Hill, Martin B. Hochman, James H. Lecky, J. Allison Routt, Michael E. Tillman: For leadership, innovation, and implementation of the Marine Mammal Protection Act to improve the Conservation of Marine Resources in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean.

Peter H. Dygert: For outstanding leadership in negotiating the 1998 Columbia River fishing agreement between the Indian tribes, Fish Management Plan and the States of Washington and Oregon.

Elizabeth Holmes Gaar, Daniel J. Avery, Mark Eames, Ronald L. Linland, Lance W. Smith, Michael P. Tehan: For leadership, teamwork, and management development of procedures for streamlined consultations required under the Endangered Species Act.

Christopher Mantzaris, Mary A. Colligan, John F. Kocik: For innovative strategies for protection of Atlantic Salmon utilizing the flexibility of the Endangered Species Act and collaboration with stakeholders.

Paul J. Rago, Thomas R. Azarovitz, John K. Galbraith, Victor A. Nordahl, James R. Weinberg: For development of improved resource surveying and assessment approaches including industry/government partnerships.

Christian J. Schoppmeyer: For developing and implementing the state contracts enforcement program in the Northeast

Enforcement Division.

Mary M. Yoklavich: For innovative research to characterize essential habitat for west coast rockfishes and practical applications to problems in fisheries management.

National Ocean Service

Cindy B. Fowler: For leadership, integrity, professional conduct and technical expertise consistently resulting in improvements in product quality and project success.

Geoffrey W. French, Michael J. Evans, Hem Satsangi: For the design and implementation of the NOAA/NOS Continuous Operational Real-Time Monitoring System (CORMS), a data quality assurance system.

Maurice B. Hickson III: For leadership and achievements in the development of GIS hydrographic survey project planning products.

Marcella R. Jansen, Joseph P. Flanagan, Peyton J.W. Robertson: For improving the productivity of the Nation's coastal waters by implementing a national program to control and reduce the runoff of polluted water.

Curtis C. Loy: For conceiving of and developing the Coast Survey Digital Historical Map and Chart Collection.

Curtis Mason: For leadership and professional excellence in developing and initiating the Department of Commerce Natural Disaster Reduction agenda.

NOS Coastal Programs Division: For improving the productivity of the Nation's coastal water by providing a national system of control and reduce the runoff of polluted water.

Glen Y. Watabayashi: For significant contributions to the national drill program through the development of trajectory analysis tools and products.

Eugene Wei: For scientific achievement and technical leadership in developing an oceanographic model system for the Port of New York and New Jersey.

NESDIS

Ernest J. Daddio, Anne O'Donnell Ball, Steven C. Hankin, George W. Jamerson, Daniel J. Manns, Nancy N.

Soreide: For significant contributions toward the development of the NOAA Server System, which greatly enhances public access to critical environmental information.

Carol N. Gerlitz, David A. Hastings, Allen M. Hittelman, Craig B. Larrimore, Mary Russell Oleson, Charles R. Schwarz: For leadership in pioneering developments for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure.

Jerry David Hardy: For personal and professional excellence and scientific achievement in the development of the Interagency Taxonomic Information System.

Hernan James Silva, Paul Kim: For contributions in improving the dissemination of polar-orbiting environmental satellite data to NOAA's direct readout user community.

Albert E. Theberge, Dorothy L. Anderson, Janice A. Beattie, Elaine V. Collins: For outstanding contributions in creating *WINDandSEA*, a unique vehicle for customer service that increased the effectiveness of the NOAA Central Library.

Peter J. Topoly, David S. Crosby, Mitchell D. Goldberg, Ray E. Habermann, Herbert Jacobowitz, Alexander W. Kidd, Paul P. Pellegrino, Nagaraja C.R. Rao, Larry L. Stowe: For generation of unique global climate data from 17 years of archived satellite observations that will increase understanding of climate changes.

National Weather Service

Ingrid Caples: For searching out and implementing the blast-up telephone forecast coordination system for the Western Region and promoting its national use.

John Charles Derber, Lawrence J. Crone, Thomas J. Kleespies, Larry M. McMillin: For pioneering development of optimal assimilation of satellite data into global forecast models and of fast, accurate radiative transfer algorithms.

Larry H. Eblen: For organizing community outreach, education, and training programs which have advanced the level of weather awareness and preparedness in south Texas.

Michael W. Franjevic: For personal and professional excellence in weather warning and preparedness arena during his NWS meteorological career.

Arthur F. Henkel, Craig C. Peterson: For developing and implementing Mountain Mapper, an operational system and suite of software.

John E. Janowiak, Robert Churchill, George G. Fulwood, Michael S. Halpert, Joseph A. Harrison, R. Wayne Higgins, Jonathan D. Hoopingarner, Stephanie N. Kenitzer, David Miskus: For development and delivery of a broad, new suite of current climate and El Niño-related products to Federal, state, and media users.

Bryan H. Moore: For outstanding efforts and accomplishments in support of the Automated Surface Observing Systems test program and the commissioning of over 600 ASOS units.

NWS Office of Systems Operations, Facilities Modernization Group; Office of Finance and Administration, Central Administration Support Center, Acquisition and Facilities Engineering Division: For leadership of an extended program team to modernize NWS facilities under challenging schedules and budget constraints.

NWS Office of Systems Operations, Operations Training Branch: For developing and delivering NEXRAD training to NWS field personnel as a component of NWS modernization.

NWS Forecast Office, Albany, NY; NWS Forecast Office, Buffalo, NY; NWS Forecast Office, Taunton, Mass.; NWS Northeast River Forecast Center: For outstanding individual and collective contributions toward NOAA's public safety mission during the Ice Storm and Flood of January 1998.

NWS Forecast Office, Birmingham, AL: For taking appropriate actions that significantly reduced the number of fatalities and injuries during the central Alabama tornadoes of April 8, 1998.

NWS Forecast Office, Minneapolis: For exemplary life saving performance during the 1998 tornado outbreak when seven tornadoes cut a devastating path across southern Minnesota.

NWS Forecast Office, Eureka, Calif.;
California-Nevada River Forecast Center;
NWS Forecast Office, Los Angeles, Calif.;
NWS Forecast Office, San Francisco Bay Area;
NWS Office, Sacramento, Calif.;
NWS Office, San Diego, Calif.;
NWS Office, San Joaquin Valley: For public service performed resulting in lives and property saved during the El Niño events of 1997 and 1998.

NWS Office, Jacksonville, Fl.;
NWS Office, Tallahassee, Fl.;
NWS Office, Tampa, Fl.;
NWS Southeast River Forecast Center, Peachtree City, Ga.:
 For exceptional hydrologic forecast services to the public and the Emergency Management community during the prolonged, record-breaking flood events of December 1997 to March 1998.

NWS Office, Nashville, Tenn.: For providing timely and accurate severe weather warning services during the April 16, 1998, tornado outbreak in middle Tennessee.

NWS Office, Pleasant Hill, Mo.: For outstanding leadership in the implementation of the NWS Modernization and Restructuring technologies and operations.

NEXRAD Weather Service Office, Tiyan, Guam: For outstanding public service in providing advanced typhoon warnings for Super Typhoon Paka.

Charles K. Piercy, Glen F. Evans, Edwin F. Hiner, William A. Johnson, James Douglas Walls: For professional excellence and engineering achievement in the establishing of the NOAAPORT / Satellite Broadcasting Network.

Edward N. Rappaport: For development of a graphics package that enhances the communication of life-saving hurricane track, size and intensity information to the public.

Jon M. Roe, Mark J. Glaudemans: For designing and developing the Weather Forecast Office Hydrologic Forecast System.

David N. Runyan, William Alexander, Gregory E. Jackson, Jeffrey A. Johnson: For the successful development, testing, and national implementation of the "Bullet-Style" warning format and associated warning software.

Joseph Greenstein Sela: For long-standing research and development in the application of global atmosphere models to massively parallel computing architectures.

Michael T. Sikorski, Laurence G. Davis, Maurice G. Dulic, John A. McDonald, Joseph A. Petteway, John R. Selock, Floyd V. Williams: For automation of the telecommunications invoice processing in support of the NWS national telecommunications programs.

Brian E. Smith: For outstanding contributions in the NWS public education program to promote recognition of the life-threatening potential of severe storms.

Jerry A. Stephens, Douglas F. Hess, Jae K. Lee, Lawrence L. Lehmann, John McNulty, Joel L. Nathan, JoAnne Swanson, Chung-Shan Wu, William L. Voitek: For the development and deployment of an innovative system to modernize and automate programming and control of NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts.

David J. Vercelli: For leadership and management in providing sites with depictions of specific map themes that can be readily modified for each AWIPS site.

Paul M. Whitmore, Alec H. Medbery: For designing, developing and implementing software and complex electronic systems which improved the West Coast/Alaska Tsunami Warning Center.

NOAA ADMINISTRATOR'S AWARDS

Office of Deputy Assistant Secretary
Robert M. Carey, Muriel J. Cole, Gene Cope, Ralph E. Meiggs, Robert H. Stockman, Julia A. Blackwell, Glenn Boledovich, Michael E. Henderson, Davida G. Remer, Craig Russell, Allison Areias, Angela Christian, Michelle Fox, Roger B. Griffis, Peter Allen, Robert C. Hansen, Matthew Stout, Greg N. Smith: For significant contribution to the National Year of the Ocean Conference.

Randee Exler, James L. Buizer, John Sokich: For significant contribution to the White House Weathercasters Climate Change Meeting.

Office of the General Counsel

Theodore M. Beuttler: For significant contributions providing legal counsel in the development of the aquatics portion of the Pacific Lumber Habitat Conservation Plan.

Robert A. Taylor: For outstanding contributions in the areas of environmental conservation, program management and policy development related to NOAA's natural resource damage assessment program.

Office of International Affairs

Susan Ware: For leadership and outstanding contributions to the sustainability of the marine environment in the Asia Pacific region.

Office of Public and Constituent Affairs

Peter Allen, Michelle Crockett, Joseph Faulkner, Joyce Gross, Robert Hansen, Gregory Hernandez, Matthew Stout, Janet Ward: For outstanding service in constituent outreach and support for Year of the Ocean.

Office of Finance and Administration

Neil A. Doherty: For leadership in developing and administering NOAA's nationwide Alternative Dispute Resolution program.

Gary L. Falk: For contributions in the area of Information Systems, Enhancement of NOAA's Collective Network Capability.

Jesse Hurtado: For outstanding leadership in establishing and implementing the Super Energy Savings Performance Contract project.

H. Marie Marks, Rita E. Argueta, Maria C. Krug: For outstanding contributions in the development of NOAA's Freedom of Information Act Home Page.

Monica Matthews: For outstanding leadership and management of the Senior Executive Service program.

Donita S. McCullough: For outstanding contributions in the area of administrative/technical support to NOAA's mission and strategic objectives.

Joel Perloth: For contributions in developing a streamlined procurement process for NOAA's IT Services requirements.

Ocean and Atmospheric Research

Jean Y. Davis: For outstanding leadership in the advancement of NOAA administrative management issues.

Roland R. Draxler, Jerome L. Heffter, Jeffrey T. McQueen, Glenn D. Rolph, Barbara J. B. Stunder: For contributions in constructing the READY system, an interactive Internet site providing real-time access to NOAA dispersion forecast products in the event of emergencies.

Michael Dean Eilts: For his positive impact on the National Severe Storms Laboratories research initiatives while enhancing a core element of the NOAA mission.

Steven C. Hankin: For extraordinary contribution to information technology in the form of innovative, and widely used software for visualization and analysis of large, global gridded data sets.

Carol Knight: For exceptional efforts in outreach and education which has brought favorable publicity and increased public awareness to OAR and NOAA programs.

Stephen R. Piotrowicz: For contributions to furthering NOAA's scientific research programs through creative planning and program development and his dedication to cost effective research management.

Michael A. Quigley: For outstanding leadership and unique contributions as Regional Coordinator of the Midwestern Regional Competition of the National Ocean Science Bowl.

Diane F. Rinaldo, Sharon L. Schroeder: For sustained superior achievement in conducting OAR's financial management and budget execution activities.

Mary Anne Whitcomb: For sustained outstanding achievements in policy development, resource management, constituent outreach and Congressional liaison.

Office of NOAA Corps Operations

Carol A. Baldwin: For achieving a high level of professional and personal excellence in support of the Office of NOAA Corps Operations.

William J. Floering: For enhancing the operations of the NOAA Ship *Miller*

Freeman through innovative equipment and process improvements.

Gordon R. Kitson: For achieving a high level of expertise in supporting the operations of NOAA's high altitude hurricane research jet aircraft.

Brett S. Puckett: For outstanding contributions and professional excellence in support of the mission of the NOAA Ship *McArthur*.

National Ocean Service

William J. Kenworthy, Stephanie Fluke, Mark Fonseca, Brian Julius, Gordon Thayer, Erik Zobrist: For significant scientific research achievements and contributions in obtaining settlements on claims pertaining to environmental impact to seagrass habitats.

Patricia A. Kreager: For significant contribution to NOAA and its mission as a Natural Resource Trustee.

National Marine Fisheries Service

Frederick H. Beaudry, William B. Folsom, Dennis M. Weidner, Mark R. Wildman: For contribution in support of international efforts to conserve and manage the global swordfish resource.

Victoria Campbell, Sharon Kramer: For development of a conservation strategy for anadromous fish habitat that is compatible with economic use of forest on private land and will protect and restore thousands of miles of habitat well into the twenty-first century.

Margaret Caldwell Lorenz: For exceptional leadership in completing the section 7 consultation handbook, an activity essential to successfully implementing the Endangered Species Act.

JoAnn McLean: For outstanding administrative support of national enforcement programs during 1998.

Gloria D. Thompson: For outstanding administrative service and management support of NOAA Fisheries.

NESDIS

Dawn D. Anders: For superior performance in providing NOAA customers immediate access to fixed-price products via the World Wide Web by implementing NOAA's first fully automated online store.

Robert Fennimore, Bruce Ramsay, Thomas M. Renkevans, George Stephens, William Tseng: For significant contributions for the creation and implementation of the Operational Significant Events Imagery Service.

Elaine M. Prins: For development of the first automated technique for detection of fires using geostationary satellite data which has proven to be a valuable tool in the detection and monitoring of fire outbreaks in the Western Hemisphere.

National Weather Service

Michael D. DiVecchio, Laurie G. Hermes, Richard A. Lane, Vernon L. Preston, Stephen K. Rinard: For exceptional team effort in implementing and commissioning of the WSR-88D NEXRAD radar into field operations.

Joseph Facundo: For outstanding contributions in the field of system commissioning and legacy system decommissioning in support of the NOAA/NWS Modernization and Association Restructuring program.

Dian J. Gaffen, Donna B. Franklin, Kay E. Weston: For promoting understanding and encouragement of the international participation of women in meteorology and hydrology via the World Meteorological Organization.

David B. Gilhousen: For conceiving, coordinating, and monitoring contractor development of the NOAA National Data Buoy Center Home Page Dial-a-Buoy System.

Joseph G. Lachacz, Drew Bouvette, Guy Drebing, Stephen N. Kusyj, Garry Looney: For dedication to the Western Region's Automated Surface Observing System program above and beyond the norm for an extensive period of time.

Stephan B. Smith: For exceptional contributions to the NWS modernization in creating and developing the SCAN convective guidance package for AWIPS.

Patricia Wallace: For significant contributions providing the deaf and blind communities the ability to receive weather watches and warnings to ensure their safety and survival. ☺